

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2012

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 5- STAFF UPDATES

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the staff update.

A. CRYSTAL CITY / POTOMAC YARD (ROUTE 1) TRANSITWAY

The City received a TIGER grant for the first segment of the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway totaling \$8.5 million. The grant will be allocated to the design/build of the Route 1 Bus Rapid Transitway (BRT) between Monroe Avenue and Potomac Avenue in a dedicated transitway. Five other grants have been received to aid in the design/construction of various elements within the transitway project. The total cost of the transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

The City has completed 100% design plans for the curblin and pavement section of the project. Because this is a design/build project, several elements of the plans will be completed and reviewed prior to that element being constructed.

Construction began in July 2012 on the transitway and is anticipated to be completed in December 2013. Operations are expected to begin in Spring 2014.

In the first three weeks of December, the light fixtures from Potomac Avenue to Howell Avenue will be relocated eight feet to the east to accommodate the additional widening of the roadway. Furthermore, the installation of storm structures will be placed in the area between Potomac Avenue and Swann Avenue and the roadway subbase will begin to be placed.

The City continues to work with Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) on the 230kv transmission line located north of East Glebe Road where the dedicated lanes transition back to the existing right-of-way. The transition of the transitway travels over easement of the transmission line and the depth of the transmission line is shallower than shown on as-built plans. DVP is currently reviewing the City's proposal for managing the construction of the transition over the transmission line.

B. POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION

The Potomac Yard Metro project is a proposed infill Metrorail station between the National Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard Development.

The development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project is currently underway. The project team is advancing the socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation impact assessments for the no build and three build alternatives. The DEIS is due for public release in Spring 2013 and anticipated for a Record of Decision in early 2014.

During the week of November 19, 2012, the project team conducted balloon tests for the three build alternatives. The purpose of the tests was to provide further understanding of the visual impacts of the proposed three station location alternatives. The results of the balloon tests will inform visual representations of the station, which will be available at the January 30, 2012 Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Working Group (PYMIG) meeting.

The next PYMIG meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 in the Council Workroom in City Hall. Topics of the meeting include impacts of the alternatives, and funding plans for each alternative.